

A1
sequence queries (BLASTP and TBLASTN) (Coulson, *Trends in Biotechnology*, 12: 76-80 (1994); Birren, *et al.*, *Genome Analysis*, 1: 543-559 (1997)).

Please delete the paragraph at page 28, lines 1 to 8, and replace it with the following paragraph:

A2
A PCR probe is a nucleic acid molecule capable of initiating a polymerase activity while in a double-stranded structure with another nucleic acid. Various methods for determining the structure of PCR probes and PCR techniques exist in the art. Computer generated searches using programs such as Primer3 (www-genome.wi.mit.edu/cgi-bin/primer/primer3.cgi), STSPipeline (www-genome.wi.mit.edu/cgi-bin/www-STSPipeline), or GeneUp (Pesole *et al.*, *BioTechniques* 25:112-123 (1998) the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), for example, can be used to identify potential PCR primers.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel non-elected claims 2-7, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

A3
1. (Once amended) A substantially purified nucleic acid molecule that encodes a maize protein or fragment thereof comprising a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Please add the following new claim:

A4
8. (New) A substantially purified nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.
